



The Downs and Valley Parishes Magazine No. 8 Nov. 2023

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The Downs and Valley Churches Service Rota November 2023

Nov 2023	St George's Darlingscott	St Mary's Ilimington	St Mary's Preston-on-Stour	St Peter's Stretton-on-Fosse	St Gregory's Tredington	St Mary's Whitchurch
5th before Advent		11.00am Holy Communion (1662)	6.00pm Evensong (1662)	9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Morning Worship	9.30am Morning Worship
12th before 3rd before Advent	10.50am Remembrance	10.50am Remembrance and Morning Worship	10.50am Remembrance	10.50am Remembrance	10.50am Remembrance and Holy Communion	10.50am Remembrance
19th before 2nd before Advent		11.00am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Holy Communion (1662)
26th before Next before Advent/Christ the King	4.00pm Evening Worship (1662)	6.00pm Evening Worship for the eve of Advent	11.00am Morning Worship			

For further information, please see the 'A Church Near You' website (<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>), and enter the church name to go to the relevant page.

Ministers:

Rector: The Revd Canon Dr Richard Cooke 07952 544820 (mobile) or 01608 544821 (landline) or Richard.Cooke.Ilimington@Outlook.com
 Hon. Assistant Minister: The Revd Dr Tim Seller 01608 682244 (landline)
 Reader: Ros Wakefield 01608 682146 (landline)
 Reader Emeritus: Malcolm Davies 01789 450793 (landline)

Churchwardens:

Tredington *Posts vacant – contact the Rector*
 Darlingscott Doreen McCarrroll 01608 682949 (landline)
 Ilimington Jane Downie 01608 682720 (landline)
 Preston-on-Stour Andrew Holman- West 07712 193773 (mobile)
 Stretton-on-Fosse *Posts vacant – contact the Rector*
 Whitchurch Carol Rutter 01789 450795 (landline)

Helen Patrick

John Craner 01789 450200 (landline)

Enquiries about Weddings or Baptisms are very welcome! Please contact the Rector, Richard Cooke.

Richard Cooke, the Rector, writes

Remembrance – ‘Father Forgive’

If only Remembrance were just about history, and war and conflict had become a thing of the past.

On 11 November, we tend to focus on our own past, but on Remembrance Sunday, 12 November this year, we think more widely. The recent eruption of violence in Israel and Gaza is a reminder of what a fragile world we inhabit, as is the continuing conflict in Ukraine which, sadly, we have almost become used to. As I write in mid-October, we await the full Israeli response to the Hamas attacks with trepidation.

On the night of 14th November 1940, Coventry had a devastating blitz. The number of bombs dropped in a short time has been calculated to be the most intense bombardment suffered in the UK during the Second World War. St Michael’s Cathedral – Warwickshire’s cathedral - was largely destroyed by fire overnight. Early the next morning, amidst the fog and smoke, only the medieval spire still stood. Dick Howard, who was the Provost (in effect, the vicar of the Cathedral), recognised immediately that calls for retaliation were not the right response. Instead he had some words chalked up on the wall behind the shattered stone altar in the ruined church, now open to the sky. They were ‘Father, forgive’ – the words of Jesus as he was nailed to the cross. Shouldn’t it be ‘Father, forgive *them*’ someone asked? No, said Howard, because all of us, British as well as German, share responsibility in some way for this war and this destruction. It was very controversial (even the Bishop of Coventry disagreed with him at the time), but over the years his response has become part of what is called the ‘Litany of Reconciliation’, used at 12noon in the New Cathedral every weekday. It begins ‘The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class. **Father, forgive.**’

This Remembrance our hearts and our prayers go out to all those caught up in war and conflict, and perhaps we too can pray, **‘Father, forgive.’**

Remembrance Sunday services will take place in all six of our churches on 12 November, beginning at 10.50am.

If you would like to know more about the Cathedral’s story, I am taking a small group round the Cathedral on Tuesday 7 November, and you’d be welcome to join us – just meet us at the main doors of the New Cathedral’s west screen at 2.30pm. For the full ‘Litany of Reconciliation’ see <https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/reconciliation/reconciliation-ministry>.

Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday falls on 12 November this year, and will be marked in each of the churches in the group by a service starting at 10.50am.

Congratulations to St George's, Darlingscott!

Compulsory schooling for all children aged 5-12 was introduced into England and Wales in 1870. It was a landmark moment in education, but it posed problems for children in more remote rural areas. It was a long walk across the fields and back twice a day, especially for little ones. In Darlingscott and Blackwell, where the children had to go to Tredington school, Edwin Gibbs left £294 in his will in 1872 'towards the salary of a mistress and maintaining a preparatory school at Darlingscott for younger children unable to attend the school at Tredington.' This seems to have sparked the idea of having the very unusual arrangement of a church and school-room combined. Though both Blackwell and Darlingscott had medieval chapels, these seem to have been demolished in the 16th Century. Local landowner Sir G.R. Phillips gave a plot of land and St George's Darlingscott was built, with the dual purpose of worship and education. It opened in 1873. From then until between the wars, children received their lessons there: generations in particular of Cliffords, Gibbins, Rainbows and Rolfes. These are names you can see in the churchyard, and we still have links with some of these families: Betty Gibbins's grandfather was amongst the first to be baptised in the new church in 1873. Weddings took a while longer to happen, as marriages could not take place at St George's because it was (and remains) a 'Chapel of Ease' of Tredington. The rules changed in the 1960s and Chris and Des Print were the first couple married at Darlingscott, and have just celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary. When the schoolroom was eventually judged to be too basic, the children of Darlingscott and Blackwell were transferred to Ilmington school and all provided with bicycles for the journey, though wartime conditions meant that the schoolroom was reopened briefly, and a few folk still remember receiving their first lessons there. Congratulations to St George's on their anniversary, and thanks to Doreen and Pete McCaroll especially for all their hard work!

Richard Cooke, Rector

From the Registers

Wedding

At Tredington, 12 October, Rebeccaa Hudson and Christopher Kershaw

Funerals and Interments of Ashes

At Preston-on-Stour, 27 July, George Alston-Roberts-West, of Atherstone, aged 85 (burial)

At Ilmington, 7 October, Margaret Warriss, of Stratford-upon-Avon, aged 91 (interment of ashes).

At Whitchurch, 11 October, Jeffrey Turner, of Woodford

Green, Essex, aged 73 (interment of ashes)
At Tredington, Irene Bown, formerly of Tredington
(burial)

Editor's Note

The deadline for copy for the December issue is 18 November to Susan Brock, Editor, E. s.brock9@btinternet.com, Daisy Cottage, Front St., Ilmington, CV36 4LA. **Please note that the limit for editorial articles is 150 words.** Enquiries about advertising to Tim Seller. E. tim.seller@outlook.com, Long Barn, Back St., Ilmington CV36 4LJ. This month's cover is an image by Stephen Prosser of Ilmington. If you would like to submit an image yourself -a painting sketch, photograph - email it to the Editor as a .jpg or PDF file (portrait layout). Submissions from readers of any age are very welcome.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2023: **Deadline Sunday 5 November**

'Delight and a deep sense of gratefulness that people had not forgotten them' - that was the reaction from families in war torn Ukraine as your shoeboxes got through last Christmas. Link to Hope's 2023 Shoebox Appeal is determined to reach out again, delivering directly to the poorest and the elderly, for whom these Christmas gifts are a lifeline. Others will go by lorry to Romania, Moldova and Bulgaria. Why not make up a box with a friend or between families? The charity's website shows you how to do this for just £10 (see below). To support the appeal pick up your INSTRUCTION LEAFLET from Ilmington Community Shop or from any of our six churches.

Fill a shoebox suitable for either a FAMILY or for an ELDERLY PERSON. Items can be secondhand if in good condition.

Deliver your box by SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER to your village collector:

STRETTON: Margaret Holdsworth, Withens - 01608 661782

TREDINGTON: Denise Belchambers, Spring Cottage - 01608 663686

PRESTON & WHITCHURCH: Gill Hanrahan, The Old Vicarage, Preston - 01789 450448

ILMINGTON & DARLINGSCOTT: Wendy Lewis Edwards, Croake Cottage, Frog Lane, Ilmington - 01608 682049

OR If you prefer to MAKE A DONATION so that Link to Hope can buy items on your behalf, then please let me have your cheque MADE OUT TO THE CHARITY or cash by the deadline, together with your full name and address, stating if you are a taxpayer for Gift Aid purposes.

OR go online to www.linktohope.co.uk/shoebox appeal where you can help the charity to buy essential items direct.

Thank you in advance for your wonderful generosity in these difficult economic times.

Wendy Lewis Edwards, Appeal Coordinator

ILMINGTON

Ilmington Show: Last Chance to Apply for Funding

Any group wishing to make a bid to support Ilmington village and other local charities, groups and organisations that benefit the parish and its community should apply in writing to the Committee Secretary (Daisy Cottage, Front St., Ilmington CV36 4LA; E:

s.brock9@btinternet.com), **by Wednesday 8 November**, stating clearly the name of the applicant and organisation, contact details, the intended use of a grant, the beneficiaries, the amount of money requested and the timescale of the project. If you need further information please contact Susan Brock.

Susan Brock, Secretary, Ilmington Show Committee

Ilmington C of E Primary School

We celebrated our annual Harvest service at church recently. This is always a special time and it was lovely to see so many friends and families joining us. This year the service was led by our year 3 and 4 children who reminded us of all the food that we have by using the alphabet. Rev Richard Cooke (and Clyde!) reminded us how fortunate we are to have such variety but also to think of those less fortunate than us. Our PTA have been busy organising some exciting events and we have already had two ice cream sales this term. Our regular termly discos are coming up soon. Our Forest School area continues to evolve and the children have been enjoying using the area ably led by our Forest Schools leader. It is great to see children of all ages getting outside in all weathers and exploring this wonderful facility.

Paul Crouch, Headteacher

Ilmington Screen-on-the-Green: Emily (15)

On Friday 24 November, we are showing "Emily", the critically acclaimed, semi-fictionalised drama about the short life of Emily Brontë, imagined through the lens of her writing of Wuthering Heights. The Times gave the film five stars, the FT called it "smart and steamy", and the Guardian described it as "impressive" and "thrillingly unconventional". Emily is played by Emma Mackey, known for the Netflix series Sex Education and as this year's recipient of BAFTA's rising star award. Please note the film is rated 15. Doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm start at Ilmington Village Hall. Tickets from the Village Shop, although some are available on the door. Licensed bar and raffle.

Lis Ribbans, Ilmington Cinema Group

November Diary @thecafe

Tuesday 7th at 2pm - Book Club discusses One August Night by Victoria Hislop

Friday 17th 6.30 for 7pm - get in the Christmas mood with our Long-Table Supper! £20 for 3 courses with wine and a hot drink

Thursday 23rd from 6 to 8pm - Our Christmas Market with lots of stall holders and supper in Ilmington Village Hall

Saturday 25th - it's Ilmington Shop Local Day, with handmade jewellery and other surprises. Come and support your community shop!

Wednesday 29th at 2pm - time to Knit and Natter
Ilmington Community Shop Committee

Ilmington Village Hall

If you have taken a transatlantic cruise recently you may have had the pleasure of hearing Tim Orchard talking about his experiences as a Concorde pilot. '**A Day in the Life of a Concorde Pilot**' is presented on **Saturday 11th November** from 7:00pm. Tim is in high demand for his very entertaining performance and we are lucky to have the opportunity to present it in our village hall. Tickets are available at the Community Shop for £10.

Regular wellness activities continue: **kurling** on Thursdays at 2:30 pm; **tai chi** on Fridays at 11:15 except for the last Friday of the month when it is at 1 pm; and, **Zumba Gold** on Tuesdays at 2:45pm. The Zumba sessions are great fun and excellent exercise, currently the average attendance is 8 people but we need at least 10 people to keep it as a viable proposition. Please use it, or you will lose it!

Bryan Clifford, Chair

Ilmington Horticultural Society Plant Sale and More

Come to the Village Hall on Saturday 18 November 12 noon til 2pm and enjoy a range of horticultural treats: a variety of herbaceous perennials, bulbs and seeds for sale, free professional gardening advice, wreathmaking workshop by Leanne King and refreshments. For further information contact the Secretary E. s.brock9@btinternet.com, T. 01608 682409

PRESTON-ON-STOUR

Preston Village Hall Film Night - Friday November 24th

This month's film will be 'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry'. Jim Broadbent and Penelope Wilton star in this story of a journey which unfolds into a soul searching and revelation of many acts of kindness along the way. Doors open at 7.00 pm for 7.30 start. Tickets £3.50 on the door.

Margaret Brocklehurst

STRETTON-ON-FOSSE

Stretton Parish Charity

Many of you will be aware of this Charity, but for the benefit of those that aren't, small annual payments are currently issued under the following categories, depending on available funds:

'**Winter Fuel Payment**' – an annual payment is made in December to anyone

to anyone over 65, who have been resident in the Parish for 3 years or more. **Also**, to households with at least one pre-school aged child.

'Moving to secondary school' – a one off payment made in July to all children moving from year 6 to year 7 to help with costs such as uniform.

'Moving to second year of University Education' – a one off payment made to those who have completed their first year at university and plan to continue onto a second year.

'Hardship Payment' – 'for the relief of distress and sickness' by personal application to the trustees or brought to the attention of the trustees.

'Individual Educational Grants' – on personal application to the trustees.

'Community Organisations' – considered on application for projects that will benefit the community of Stretton Parish.

If you would like to get in touch with the trustees about any of these payments, please drop a note of your contact details into the post box on the wall at the entrance to the Village Hall.

Paul Robinson

TREDINGTON with DARLINGSCOTT

St George's Church, Darlingscott **150th Celebrations and Harvest Service**

As most of you are aware we held celebrations for the 150th Anniversary of St George Church at Darlingscott on Saturday October 7th followed the next day by our Harvest Festival Service, it was a well-attended weekend and an important date to celebrate. Gospel Bell group sang and played for us and had everyone singing to their music, a very pleasant and enjoyable evening. Thank you to all who came and joined us and for the help provided, decorating the church and the lovely food selection, also kind donations for the church. Harvest Food Gifts were taken to the Food Bank in Shipston.

Doreen McCarroll Churchwarden

Tredington and Blackwell WI

Next WI Meeting: Thursday 9th November 2023, 1.00pm, in Tredington and Blackwell WI Hall, Armscote Road, Tredington, CV36 4NP. This will be our WI Annual Meeting with an informal Members' event. In place of our usual meeting on Thursday 14th December 2023, we will be having a WI

Christmas Lunch at The Lion in Tredington at 12.30pm.

HOLD THE DATE: WI Christmas Coffee Morning with craft and cake stalls on Saturday 2nd December 2023, 10.30am-12.30pm, in Tredington and Blackwell WI Hall.

If you would like to attend any of our WI meetings, please contact the WI Secretary. For further details, email: secretary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk or telephone 01608 682102. Visitors are always welcome at our friendly and thriving WI. Information about our WI or to hire Tredington and Blackwell WI Hall, please see our website: <https://tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk> and Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/tredingtonandblackwellwi>

'Welcome to Tredington' Booklet

For many years, Tredington and Blackwell WI has produced and maintained a '*Welcome to Tredington*' booklet, which provides details of the activities that take place in Tredington and the local area, with names of those to contact should you wish to know more or join in. It also provides some practical information in relation to other services and facilities in the area which you may need. As it is a 'live' document, it is regularly updated and is available for you to view, download and print from: <https://tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk/welcome-to-tredington/> We hope you find the booklet informative and that it will be useful to new and existing residents alike. If there are any groups or societies that would like to be considered for inclusion in this booklet, please contact Patricia Macpherson, Secretary, telephone 01608 682102 or email secretary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk

WI Community Film Night

Our next film screening in the Tredington and Blackwell WI Hall, Armscote Road, Tredington, CV36 4NP will be on Friday 1st December 2023. Bar opens at 7pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. It is a warm-hearted British comedy-drama based on a true story. (Cert. 12, 2005), running time 106 minutes, plus interval with bar and ice creams. Booking is now open. For more details of this, and other forthcoming films, to join the email list or to book places, please contact Gill by email: treasurer@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk or text/telephone: 07789 810877.

Craft and Chatter

Our next Craft and Chatter meetings are on Thursday 2nd November and Thursday 7th December 2023 in Tredington and Blackwell WI Hall, Armscote Road, Tredington, CV36 4NP, at 2.00pm. EVERYONE welcome – including non-

-crafters. There are opportunities to share tips and learn other crafts in a relaxed, informal atmosphere. Bring your own knitting, sewing or craft to work on whilst having a cup of tea, a piece of cake and a chat. **NEW! CHATTER AND CRAFT:** From Monday 20th November 2023, due to popular demand, we will hold an *additional* meeting on the **third** Monday of every month, 2pm in the WI Hall, where we would like to build up a social group alongside our crafters – the emphasis will be more on Chatter than Craft! There is a small charge of £1 for tea, coffee and cake at our C&C meetings. Please contact Vanessa for details: 07818 599353 or email: vanessa@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk

Tredington Church Bell Chimes

In restoring the church clock at Tredington the option of having it chime the hours has come up. The PCC would be grateful to know from local residents who have strong feelings either in favour or against the clock chiming for 24 hours a day. Please contact the Rector with your views before 12 November, by email to Richard.Cooke.Ilmington@Outlook.com.

The Revd Thomas Powell

Thomas Powell has recently been ordained priest and is serving at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford. He will be celebrating communion at Tredington, where he was part of the congregation for many years, on 26 November at 11am and all are welcome to join in this joyous occasion!

R.N.L.I. Table Top Sale

A very big thank you to all who came or donated to The Table Top Sale on 14 October. We raised £650 and also sold over £150 of souvenirs and cards. A great result thanks to all the helpers and all the supporters. Thank you everyone on behalf of the R.N.L.I.

Jenny Plenderleith

WHITCHURCH

Recently we at Whitchurch have applied for a grant to help restore our stained glass. The application asked us what activities beyond Sunday services took place in our church. We've been thinking about this question for a while. St Mary's is the only public building in Whitchurch parish. The Parish Meeting meets there. And our visitor book attests to how many 'pilgrims' walk across the fields to sit in the church, remember wedding anniversaries, tend graves, examine the architecture, read the memorials. Many of them write, 'Thank you for keeping this beautiful church open'. But how else might we use it? We've started a

modest bookshelf, stocked with poetry, essays, short stories that can be read in a few quiet minutes. But what else? Please send suggestions to the churchwardens. Their contact details can be found in this magazine.

Carol Rutter, Churchwarden

OUTSIDE THE PARISHES

We charge £6 for editorial articles about events outside the five parishes to cover our costs. Contact the Editor s.brock9@btinternet.com

An Invitation to Join Us for a Breakfast for Women At the Halford Bridge Inn, Halford, Saturday 11 November 9.00 for 9.15 – 10.30am

It will be a pleasure and a privilege to welcome Lianne Kirkman to speak to us. Lianne has an amazing personal life and faith story to share with us, and is the Founding Trustee and CEO of Helping Hands Charity, with the main office situated in Leamington Spa. *'Extending a compassionate hand to those affected by the causes and effects of homelessness; such as vulnerability in housing, domestic abuse, addiction, isolation, mental health challenges, and poverty.'* To reserve a place for a delicious continental breakfast for £9 Please contact: Liz Harvey on ma_harvey@hotmail.com 07914 02451. (please let me know of any allergies or gluten free).

Stratford Choral Society: Handel's Samson

The concert on Saturday November 18th 2023 is another great oratorio by Handel - the story of Samson, based on Samson in the Book of Judges. First performed in 1743 at the height of Handel's popularity in England in a period when he wrote Messiah, Samson, Judas Maccabaeus and Solomon, since when he has dominated English choral music. Music Director Oliver Neal Parker will conduct the Stratford Choral Society, Hannah Davey Soprano, Tim Morgan Countertenor, Charne Rochford Tenor, Hugo Herman Wilson Bass and the Regency Sinfonia. Tickets £20 (adults) or £10 (students) for Samson Concert on Saturday 18th November 2023 at 7.30pm at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon from choir members, web-site www.stratfordchoral.org.uk<<http://www.stratfordchoral.org.uk>>, phone 01789 750704 or at the door on the night if seats available.

Carol Jackson

The Shipston Home Nursing Christmas Gift Fair

The Gift Fair returns on the 14th and 15th November at Etting-

ton Community Centre. Come along and make a start on your Christmas shopping, with a fantastic selection of stalls selling everything from homeware and jewellery to candles, Christmas decorations and even presents for your pets! Of course, we'll also have our food hall, and café selling biscuits, cakes, and homemade soup on the Wednesday. For more information, please visit www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk/events. 14th November, 4 - 7.30pm; 15th November, 9.30am - 3pm.
Kate Bamford, Head of Fundraising & Communications

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- Clarke Electrical Services. 01608-661394, or
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